

3. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the polymer fiber has an initial modulus ≥ 100 cN/tex, at room temperature.

4. (Amended) Method according to claim 3, wherein the polymer fiber has an initial modulus of 100-2000 cN/tex, at room temperature.

5. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the temperature is achieved with the aid of hot or superheated water.

6. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the temperature is achieved with the aid of IR-heat.

7. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the temperature is achieved with the aid of microwaves.

8. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the polymer fiber has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of $\geq 20^\circ\text{C}$.

9. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the polymer fiber has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of ≥ 20 - 100°C .

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10. (Amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein the polymer included in the polymer fibers comprises polyester, polylactic acid, polyamide or polypropylene, or copolymers or mixtures thereof.

11. (Amended) A hydroentangled nonwoven fabric obtainable by the method of claim 1, the fabric comprising polymer fibers, wherein the polymer fibers in the nonwoven fabric have a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 20-100°C and an initial modulus of 200-750 cN/tex at room temperature.

12. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to Claim 11, wherein the polymer fibers in the nonwoven fabric have an initial modulus of 250-600 cN/tex at room temperature.

13. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to claim 11, wherein the polymer fibers in the nonwoven fabric have a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 50-70°C.

14. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to claim 11, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a bulk specific volume of $\geq 8 \text{ cm}^3/\text{g}$.

15. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to claim 14, wherein the nonwoven fabric has a bulk specific volume of 8-15 cm^3/g .

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cont

16. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to claim 11, wherein the polymer included in the polymer fibers comprises polyester, polylactic acid, poly-amide or polypropylene, or copolymers or mixtures thereof.

17. (Amended) Nonwoven fabric according to claim 11, wherein the polymer included in the polymer fibers comprises polyester, polylactic acid, poly-amide or polypropylene, or copolymers or mixtures thereof.

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Please add the following new claims:

A²

18. (New) Method according to claim 3, wherein the polymer fiber has an initial modulus of 500-1500 cN/tex at room temperature.

19. (New) Method according to claim 3, wherein the polymer fiber has an initial modulus of 200-750 cN/tex at room temperature.

20. (New) Method according to claim 3, wherein the polymer fiber has an initial modulus of 250-600 cN/tex at room temperature.

21. (New) Method according to claim 1, wherein the polymer fiber has a glass transition temperature (T_g) of 50-70°C.

22. (New) Nonwoven fabric according to claim 14, wherein the nonwoven
fabric has a bulk specific volume of 10-15 cm³/g.

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